

school seniors regardless of whether they played ball or not. This problem has been worked out, however, by allowing the Rangers to wear a different color beret to distinguish their unique contribution.

Even though I believe the Army is spending too much money on berets, \$30 million and climbing, and even though I have problems with where they are made, particularly in China, although that contract has been canceled, I believe Congress does not have the time or the charter to meddle with what the Army does or does not wear. If we can trust the chief of staff of the Army to command our young Americans in wartime, certainly we can trust him to determine what kind of uniform they will wear.

CONGRATULATING DENISE QUINONES AND TITO TRINIDAD

(Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate two Puerto Ricans that in the past weekend made all of us very proud. I am talking about Denise Quinones, who won the Miss Universe contest held in Puerto Rico last Friday, and Felix "Tito" Trinidad who on Saturday added the middle-weight championship to his already amazing resume.

Denise and Tito, as we call him down there, make us proud because they represent some of the best qualities of the Puerto Rican people. Denise is much more than a beautiful face. She is extremely bright, well educated, fully bilingual and ready to meet the challenges of the future. Denise is a true role model for our youth.

We also celebrate the triumph of our champion Felix "Tito" Trinidad who is the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world. Tito embodies the talent and discipline of Puerto Rican youth. His unbreakable will in the ring reflects the strength of the Puerto Rican people.

Today, Puerto Rico celebrates two real stars. Denise and Tito remind us that we can accomplish anything through dedication and perseverance. Felicidades a ambos. (Congratulations to both of you.)

SUSPENSION OF UNLAWFUL AND UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, industries around this Nation continually are burdened by unfair and unnecessary regulations. However, last year the mining industry faced an additional and unnecessary burden, an unlawful regulation.

Previously, Congress called for the National Academy of Sciences to study and assess the effectiveness of the ex-

isting 3809 regulations that affect the mining industry. That study, authorized by Congress, concluded that the existing laws were effective in protecting the environment. Yet the Clinton administration last year promulgated new 3809 regulations in spite of the National Academy's findings and in direct violation of Federal law.

□ 1415

In fiscal year 2000, the Interior appropriations bill clearly prohibited the promulgation of any new 3809 rules except those "which are not inconsistent with the National Academy of Science studies."

Thankfully, President Bush realized the error of President Clinton's ways, and now we have only to roll back the unnecessary and unlawful 3809 regulations proposed by the previous administration, which do not protect the environment or the American people.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-70)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 15, 2001.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-71)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this pro-

vision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to Burma is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2001. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19, 2000.

As long as the Government of Burma continues its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond May 20, 2001.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 15, 2001.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1696) to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1696

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPEDITED COMMENCEMENT BY AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION OF CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

Section 2113 of title 36, United States Code, as added by section 601(a) of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (Public Law 106-117; 113 Stat. 1576), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION.—(1) The requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and all other laws pertaining to the siting and design for the World War II memorial having been met, the Commission shall expeditiously proceed with the construction of the World War II memorial at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site in the District of Columbia.

"(2) The construction of the World War II memorial authorized by paragraph (1) shall be consistent with—

"(A) the final architectural submission made to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission on June 30, 2000, as supplemented on November 2, 2000; and

“(B) such reasonable construction permit requirements as may be required by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service.

“(3) The decision to construct the World War II memorial at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site, decisions implementing this subsection, and decisions regarding the design for the World War II memorial are final and conclusive and shall not be subject to administrative or judicial review.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1696.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago this month, the original authorization for a memorial on the Mall honoring the World War II veterans was signed into law, and still construction has not yet begun. H.R. 1696 will be the sixth bipartisan piece of legislation Congress has sent to the White House for approval, attempting to move the process along.

Over the past 6 years, 22 public hearings have been held on the site and design of the memorial in compliance with the Commemorative Works Act. The memorial site and design have received the endorsements of the Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia and four endorsements from the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. The Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capitol Planning Commission has each rendered approval for the memorial five times. This site was approved by both the Secretary of the Interior and the President. And still construction has not begun.

Two other very important things have also been happening since Congress first authorized this memorial. Through the leadership and hard work of former Senator Bob Dole and Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks, the memorial fund has now raised over \$170 million. There are no taxpayer funds involved in this memorial. Financial support has come in from half a million Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations, dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations, 48 state legislatures, over 1,000 schools, and numerous veterans groups representing millions of veterans.

Unfortunately, something else has been happening since the memorial was

authorized, Mr. Speaker. Millions of World War II veterans have gone to their eternal rest. According to VA statistics, 3 million World War II veterans have died since this memorial was authorized in 1993.

Once begun, construction of the memorial will take approximately 30 months. In that time, nearly 1 million additional World War II veterans will pass away. Each day of delay tragically adds 1,100 more. And still construction has not begun.

Why? Because a small group of opponents are desperately using litigation to challenge prior decisions and delay construction so they can drag the memorial back through a mind-numbing bureaucracy. The opponents are not satisfied by more than 20 public meetings over the past 6 years resulting in endorsements and approval of all agencies required by law. They wanted to go back to square one.

This is truly bureaucracy at its worst. It has literally taken twice as long to go from Congressional approval to construction of a World War II memorial than it did to fight and win World War II in the first place.

Once again, it is up to Congress to get the job done and save the memorial from what an article in the Washington Post called “A bureaucratic form of double jeopardy.”

A New York Times article recently quoted the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission as favoring Congressional action to “clarify the issue and moot the question by saying the Commission’s actions were in fact valid.”

H.R. 1696 does exactly that. It states that the memorial has met all legal requirements and that construction should begin expeditiously. This legislation has the support of virtually every service organization in the country, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joining with the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and the former chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP). I am glad to have him back working on veterans’ issues, if just for one day.

This measure, H.R. 1696, will expedite the construction of the new national World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. I commend my friend from Arizona for his leadership on this issue and am honored to manage this measure with him. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) is one of the heroes of World War II. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the other members of his generation, we all say thank you for your service and sacrifice; it is time to build a memorial to honor your actions.

Mr. Speaker, a national World War II memorial will honor all Americans

who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, as well as the millions of other Americans who contributed in countless ways to the war effort.

Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now. More than 50 years after the end of World War II, there does not exist in our Nation’s Capital a fitting memorial to the service and sacrifices of millions of Americans who preserved democracy and defeated totalitarianism during World War II. The time to construct this memorial is now.

Mr. Speaker, in a longer statement I will submitting for the record at the end of my statement, I review the history of the World War II memorial. The memorial has been the subject of repeated reviews, hearings, public examinations and official actions. It is time to build this memorial now.

Mr. Speaker, the national World War II memorial will be located between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Some critics of the memorial argue the memorial would “clutter up an already crowded site.” A prominent memorial to honor those who served and sacrificed, this memorial is not “clutter.” The time to build this memorial is now.

I expect there will always be some opposition to this memorial by its scope, its location and design or by some individual group. Ironically, the right to oppose this amendment was defeated and preserved by those who fought for and defended this country in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, let us expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, and construct it now.

Mr. Speaker, John Ruskin once said “our duty is to preserve what the past has said for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future.” This statement is an appropriate guide for our deliberations today as we consider H.R. 1696, a bill that will expedite the construction of the National World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia.

In 1993, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. President Clinton signed the legislation into law on May 25, 1993. The memorial is intended to honor all who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It is also intended to honor the entire nation’s contribution to the war effort. The future National World War II Memorial will be an integral part of the Washington, DC landscape. The memorial will not only appropriately honor and pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much, but will educate future generations to some of the costs of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, 14 years after Congress authorized the construction of this memorial, and six years from the first of 22 public hearings on its site and design, the memorial’s construction remains delayed by a lawsuit filed by a small opposition group and a procedural issue involving the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP), one of the agencies required by law to approve the memorial.

NCP decisions of the past two years, including its approval of the National World War II Memorial, have been placed in question because the former NCP chairman continued to

serve on the commission after the expiration of his term. The legislation that established the commission permitted the chairman to serve until replaced, but when the law was amended this language was inadvertently omitted. The NCPD has scheduled yet another public hearing on the memorial for June 14, 2001. Meanwhile, court action on the lawsuit is on hold pending resolution of this issue, which may take several more months to conclude.

Mr. Speaker, more than 16 million Americans served in uniform during World War II. More than 400,000 gave their lives, over 670,000 were wounded, and millions more supported the war effort on the front here at home. Of the 16 million who served, only five million remain alive today. World War II veterans, who saved democracy and served heroically, today are battling the diseases and disabilities of older age. Today, our World War II veterans are dying at a rate of 1,100 per day. With more than 400,000 veterans dying each year, every delay in memorial construction ensures that hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans will never witness the completion of this memorial. H.R. 1696 will expedite construction of the memorial and make it possible for many of our World War II veterans to be able to see the memorial with their own eyes.

H.R. 1696 would declare that the National World War II Memorial complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Commemorative Works Act, and any other governing laws pertaining to the memorial's site and design. H.R. 1696 would direct expedited construction of the memorial, consistent with reasonable construction permit requirements of the Secretary of Interior and the National Park Service. In addition, H.R. 1696 would mandate that the decision to construct the memorial at the Rainbow Pool site and decisions regarding the design of the memorial are final and conclusive and shall not be subject to administrative or judicial review.

The Commemorative Works Act of 1986 governs the process of establishing memorials in Washington, DC. The Act gives the authority for final site and design approval to the Commission of Fine Arts, the NCPD, and the Secretary of the Interior. In total, eight sites were considered for the memorial. The final Rainbow Pool selection was the consensus choice as the only site commensurate with the significance of World War II in American and World history.

Since 1995, the memorial site and design have been the subject of 22 public meetings that resulted in the endorsement of hundreds of Members of Congress, an endorsement from the State Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia, four endorsements from the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Review Board, five approvals from the CFA, and five approvals from the NCPD.

In other words, the National World War II Memorial is the product of an open and democratic process, in full compliance with all applicable laws. The site and design were debated in the media and in 22 public meetings since 1995. No party has been denied the right to be heard, and critics have had full opportunity to state their positions.

On May 28th of this year, many of us will attend Memorial Day observances. We will with humility and thanks, pay sincere respect to those whose sacrifices and dedications have

protected the ideals on which America was founded. In this spirit, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1696. The time is overdue to begin construction on this meaningful tribute and symbolic monument that will immortalize the defining moment of our history forever.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of our Committee on Resources.

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this bill, which will expedite the construction of the national World War II memorial at the Rainbow Pool site on the Mall. I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman STUMP) for the action he has taken on this.

It has been nearly 60 years since the people of our great Nation were called upon to defend democracy from the tyranny threatening to engulf the world. The best of America's sons and daughters heeded the call, and with the Nation united behind them, they changed the course of history. Now as America's greatest generation is in their twilight years, it is time to erect a fitting memorial to them on America's Mall as a testament to their sacrifices and their triumphant victory.

The American Battle Monuments Commission has met the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Commemorative Works Acts, and all other laws dealing with the site and design of this memorial, yet the memorial remains mired in administrative procedure, which continues to delay the construction.

It is time to set aside the bureaucratic obstacles and do what is right. We owe nothing less to those who gave so much for their country and the world.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this body is anxious to see a memorial to the women and men who secured our freedom with their personal sacrifices and their lives. We can assure a memorial on the present timetable or sooner without passing this radically destructive bill that will do irrevocable harm to the World War II memorial itself by eliminating indispensable oversight for the largest and most significant memorial on the Mall since the Lincoln Memorial was constructed almost 80 years ago.

We can keep a memorial on schedule without destroying the Commemorative Works Act, signed by Ronald Reagan 16 years ago specifically to assure oversight of all construction on the Mall.

Those of us who wanted the extraordinary vista between the Washington

Monument and the Lincoln Memorial left unobstructed lost that battle several years ago. This bill responds to press reports that left the impression that the National Capital Planning Commission, the NCPD, would reconsider the entire World War II memorial project.

Both the NCPD and recent press reports have corrected this erroneous notion. The matter is before the NCPD again only because the Justice Department spotted a legal flaw that a hold-over member had called the vote into question. That would have imperiled the memorial.

This bill is not only unnecessary, it throws out the baby with the bath water that has already been eliminated. The only overreaching left now is in this bill. It would leave a huge memorial to rise on the Mall, without any Federal law or agency with the power or the expertise to assure that the memorial builders meet their commitments and that the many problems that have been identified are caught and avoided.

Here are some of them: Assuring that contaminated groundwater would be pumped out continually and treated before continuing into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay inasmuch as the memorial is to be built below the groundwater table;

Protecting the structural integrity of the Washington Monument's wooden foundations as groundwater in its subsoil is pumped out;

Replacing the groundwater upon which the old growth trees that beautify the Mall depend;

Assuring that helicopters have a place to land without putting helicopter pads on the memorial, a National Park Service proposal which was recently stopped by the NCPD;

Accommodating tour buses off the Mall area;

Assuring that the vital 17th Street artery of the District used by Virginia and Maryland commuters and tourists alike near the Tidal Basin is not closed to traffic;

Ensuring oversight of the nighttime lighting plan still to be developed;

Ensuring oversight of the sculptural elements of the memorial and any inscriptions on the walls;

Ensuring compliance with what has already been approved.

This bill, which had no hearing and is informed by no meetings with relevant agency personnel promises serious unintended and counterproductive consequences that could be both embarrassing and disastrous for the memorial.

In the past, the Congress has always avoided the precedent this bill would set; using our power to tamper with the detailed oversight necessary to assure the integrity of the Federal presence.

Vote no. The NCPD has already gotten the message.

□ 1430

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON).

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), who has been a real leader in this effort; and I appreciate what he has done.

I just want to say a couple of things. I cannot get into the architectural or the engineering problems here. I remember in 1939, I am old enough to remember that, that they had the same arguments as far as the Jefferson Memorial. It would be ruining the tidal basin and everything like that. I do not believe that for a minute, and it has not proved to be so.

I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May of 1944. I was proud of that. There are an awful lot of us who are still around, a dwindling number, who want to see something. We have the Vietnam Memorial, we have the Korean Memorial, but we do not a World War II memorial.

Frankly, there are hundreds of thousands of people who believe this and who have contributed: fraternal organizations, foundations, corporations. I have a VFW post, number 524, in my little town of Corning, which is about 12,500 people, which has raised more money than any other small VFW post in the whole country. They really believe in this. There are people out there, not intellectualizing about this, but who have a piece of their skin in this issue. They want to have something done. I would like to have something done, and I would like to have something done before I die.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Stump legislation to construct the World War II memorial exactly where it should be, as a memorial to the victory of liberty over tyranny in the 20th century, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, exactly where it should be placed, so that freedom from the 18th, the 19th, and 20th centuries will be celebrated along our avenue of democracy. It has now taken longer to approve this memorial, three times longer, actually, than it did to fight the war.

It is time for America to say "thank you" to our greatest generation, and to make it more than words. The public has a new-found fascination with the World War II generation, thanks to Tom Brokaw's book, movies such as "Saving Private Ryan," and other commemorations of our Nation's finest hour.

Outside the beltway, more than half a million Americans have responded to a national fund-raising appeal by contributing more than \$150 million to the World War II Memorial project. In fact, just this past week, in my district, I returned to accept a check from schoolchildren, 7th and 8th graders at Anthony Wayne, Jr. School for \$2,154 to contribute to the memorial's construc-

tion. Young people, the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who have been given the freedom we have today are contributing across this country. We owe them and their predecessors the kind of thanks that a grateful Nation expresses. Unfortunately, this project has been snarled in a new round of political tussling and legal wrangling inside this beltway.

I do not question the motives of the memorial's opponents, but it is time to move forward. There have been 22 public hearings by organizations like the National Capital Planning Commission, the Fine Arts Commission approving the construction of this memorial. The money has been raised and it is on deposit. All the respective legislation has been passed. Both Chambers of this Congress have said yes, yes, yes. Over 8 years, we have said yes. The ground has been dedicated. It is time to move forward with construction of the World War II memorial at the Rainbow Pool site. I say that not just as a Member of Congress, but as a city planner that helped take a look at the site, that has worked with the architects to make sure that the design was appropriate, blocking no views; and all public input has made this a better design than we began with originally.

Of the 16 million veterans who served during World War II, approximately 5 million still survive. Every day, approximately 1,100 World War II veterans pass away, never to see the memorial in Washington that will stand as testimony to what they did for us, with the heroism and the self-sacrifice that have given us a new generation of children of freedom.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to move forward with construction of the World War II memorial. The time for delay is over. We not only honor our World War II veterans during this Armed Services Week in doing so, but we also say, we understand the cause for which they fought and it deserves recognition on the central part of our mall, complementing what we have done for the 18th century, the 19th century, and finally, the 20th century.

Support the Stump bill, H.R. 1696.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I would like to say that myself and the other two Members that have spoken on this side of the aisle all joined World War II when we were 17 years old. My wife and I have read on a daily basis the number of World War II veterans that are dying at the rate of 1,000 a day; and those that do not believe that, just look at the obituary columns in the newspaper.

Let me cite some of the reasons people give for not building this wonderful building. Critics claim that the memorial was approved behind closed doors by a small group of individuals without regard to the law. That is not true.

Critics claim that the memorial would desecrate grounds made sacred by the civil rights movement and would greatly impede and prevent future public gatherings and marches in the vicinity of Washington and Lincoln. That is not true.

Critics claim that the memorial will block the mall's open space between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, inhibiting pedestrians from walking through this part of the mall. That is not true. The design allows open flow of visitors between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

Critics claim that the memorial would destroy the historic Rainbow Pool. That is not true. The Rainbow Pool will be lowered and rebuilt in its historic configuration. The pool's waterworks, which have not functioned for decades, will be restored to their original splendor. The Rainbow Pool will earn greater historic significance as the centerpiece of the only memorial to a 20th century event commemorated on the main axis of the mall.

Critics claim that the design echoes the Nazi Fascist architectural language of triumph and public spectacle. That is not true.

Critics claim that the World War II memorial is being built on ground that is part of the Lincoln Memorial, and that is not true.

I say to my colleagues, there are millions of reasons why this should be done, but every day there are fewer and fewer of us around that really can deliver the purpose that these people died for. I would like to say we have waited long enough. It is time that we pass this bill. Let us vote for it.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I, first of all, want to rise in strong support of H.R. 1696, which would expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for his leadership in bringing this very important resolution to the floor today. I would also like to recognize the other World War II veterans who are still in the House of Representatives, including the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), who did spend some time in Guam during World War II, and especially the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), who also spent a significant amount of time in Guam during World War II.

The generation of Americans that fought and sacrificed during World War II deserve proper meaningful, and immediate recognition. A national monument should memorialize the spirit and the sacrifice and the unit of the American people in what was a chaotic and challenging time in world history; and after several years of planning, organization, massive public input, and creative efforts by various groups, this

resolution seeks to make this monument a reality.

Time is against us, as has been already pointed out, as the veterans of World War II are dying at a rate that exceeds 1,000 every day; and if we do not act now, we may miss the opportunity to finally ensure proper remembrance for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation and indeed preserved the Nation. It is one of the great monuments, when we look at what has happened on the mall, where we have the Washington Monument, which in a sense honors the founding of this Nation; and we look at the Lincoln Memorial, which preserves the national division from within.

We have in this memorial testimony to preserving the Nation in the face of challenges from abroad. So it is entirely fitting and proper that as we go through the sequence of American history, we take the time to honor those important events which this Nation experienced and in which this Nation thrived.

The World War II memorial will be discussed mostly in the sense of what happened during the battles of World War II, and I hope to make my own contribution to that. But we should always be mindful as well that World War II represented the maturation of our country as a world power, which has continued to the present. It is more than simply the battles of World War II; it has really shaped and reshaped the destiny of not only our Nation and the years subsequent to it, but indeed the entire world.

My own part in this memorial was to try to bring recognition to the people of Guam who experienced a terrible occupation during World War II as the only American territory with civilians still present who experienced occupation during World War II, and the Chamorros, who were American nationals at the time, remained steadfastly loyal to the United States, and this resistance to conquest only exacerbated the brutality which they experienced. So for the people of Guam, this has a very special significance as well.

One of the immediate challenges that we faced in trying to deal with the memorial was that there were an anticipated 50 pillars, each loosely reflecting each one of the 50 States. And one of the lessons that we tried to work with as the memorial underwent some rethinking and underwent public input was to finally expand the number to 56 so that indeed all States and territories would be included in the commemoration of World War II. I believe that the people of Guam are not only grateful, but deserve this recognition and attention. The people of Guam not only suffered the indignities of a Japanese occupation. Hundreds were executed and many, many more died as a result of the battle, as a result of deprivation, as a result of hunger.

One of the biggest holidays in Guam, even today, is July 21, which commemorates the landing of the U.S. Ma-

rines on July 21, 1944, which commemorates and celebrates the arrival of their fellow Americans to free the island from the hands of the Japanese and, more importantly, to cement a very strong relationship which exists to this day.

So this is a monument in which it is in the right place. I can think of no better place for it to be. Because when one comes to the Nation's capital, the whole Nation's history should be before us; and it would be a great testimony to the World War II generation.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in strong support of this measure, H.R. 1696, a bill expediting the construction of the national World War II memorial here in our Nation's capital, and I urge my colleagues to join in lending their support to this legislation. I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Armed Services, who is to be commended for his long-term diligent efforts to bring this measure to fruition.

This legislation states that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, NEPA, the Commemorative Works Act, and any other laws pertaining to the citing and design of the memorial, have been fully met.

□ 1445

This measure allows the American Battle Monuments Commission to proceed expeditiously with construction of this long overdue veterans memorial to our World War II veterans at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site.

Moreover, the measure mandates that the decision to construct this memorial at the Rainbow Pool site and decisions regarding the design of the memorial are final and conclusive and should not be subject to any further administrative or judicial review.

Mr. Speaker, despite being authorized by Congress 8 years ago and having broken ground last year, which I was pleased to participate in, the construction of the World War II memorial has been delayed indefinitely. The decisions on location of the memorial and on its design were the subject of an open and dedicated process that included 22 public hearings over the past 5 years.

Despite these extensive reviews, there remains a small but vocal opposition that is prepared to block construction of the memorial on the Mall at all costs. The majority rule and the democratic process apparently means nothing to many of those opposed to the memorial, some of whom have succeeded in blocking construction with a

pending lawsuit and a minor procedural issue.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that these petty delays will deprive hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans of the opportunity to ever review or visit the memorial. Only 5 million of the 16 million veterans who served in the Second World War remain with us, and we lose, as it has been indicated earlier today, 1,100 World War II veterans each and every day.

As a World War II veteran, I take offense at this small-minded opposition who want to block construction at all costs. What they forget is that it was the contributions of those who fought in World War II that permits them to freely voice their obstructionist views.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the opposition has had ample time to speak. When subjected to a democratic vote, the location and design of the memorial was approved. It is now over time, long overdue to move forward with the construction of this important memorial for our World War II veterans.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, we have all been here this afternoon talking about honoring our World War II veterans, the greatest generation. We have all talked about how long it has taken to honor these veterans, how many have died, even in the planning process.

Mr. Speaker, there is one group of veterans of World War II that has waited 55 years to be honored. This Congress can proceed to do so. The previous speaker, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and I have introduced legislation called the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act."

In 1941, this country drafted all of the regular and irregular forces of the Philippine army and guerilla units. They fought in World War II. They fought in World War II. They held up the advance of the Japanese army. They surrendered with our forces at Bataan, suffered through the Bataan Death March, bravely defended our last forces at Corregidor. They stopped the Japanese timetable for many, many months, allowed us to regroup, and allowed MacArthur time eventually to return and take back the Philippines.

Yet, in 1946 this country, this Congress in 1946, decided to take away all the veterans' benefits that were promised to these brave heroes of World War II. It has been 55 years since that action was taken. It is time to restore the honor and dignity of the Filipino veterans. It is time to give them back the honor and the benefits that we promised but just took away.

We talk today about honoring our World War II heroes. We talk today about the freedom that they have given us and our Nation. As we talk about

the heroes that we are going to commemorate on the Mall, let us not forget the Filipinos who were drafted into our Armed Forces, fought, and died for this country's freedom, and had this Congress take away their benefits in 1946.

Let the 107th Congress truly honor our veterans, restore their benefits, and pass the legislation, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2001.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I rise in very strong support of H.R. 1696. If ever there was a memorial that should be built, this is it. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, there is no memorial more befitting than to honor our World War II veterans and the tens of millions of people who were affected by World War II.

In fact, we in Congress agreed to honor the men and women of World War II when we passed and the President signed the act to authorize the construction of the memorial. Yet, here we are, 8 years later, with nothing to show for it. The only reason we have nothing to show is that the memorial construction has been stonewalled time and again by lawsuits and litigation by a small group of Washingtonians who do not want any additional memorials on the Mall, not even one to acknowledge what is arguably the most important event of the 20th century.

The sad fact is, Mr. Speaker, that in the meantime, over the 8 years, almost 3.4 million World War II veterans have died. With each passing day, over 1,000 more veterans die, men and women who deserve this memorial who will never see it. As this process drags on, we lose 30,000 more each month and 400,000 a year. We simply have to get construction started and completed on this memorial.

I want to add that this bill is not something we are trying to ramrod through at the last minute; quite to the contrary. There have been 22 public hearings, five approvals from the Commission on Fine Arts, and five approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission. There has been overwhelming national support, and over \$170 million has been raised or pledged by over half a million citizens, hundreds of corporations, 1,100 schools, and hundreds of veterans groups.

Mr. Speaker, all the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act and the Commemorative Works Act have been met. All of the approvals have been made. The site has been established and is in the proper, rightful, and fitting place. We must end the delays and get on with the construction of the memorial, which pays homage to the brave men and women who fought for our country and sacrificed their lives to keep this country and the world free.

Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed at the delay that has taken place. I strongly

urge passage of H.R. 1696 so we can finally bring the stonewalling to an end and ensure that this deserving memorial will be constructed.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of our Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 1696, a bill to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial on the Washington Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. This artist's rendition to my left shows the dignity and grace that this memorial will provide and in true memory of those men and women who served so ably and so courageously on behalf of our country.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the design and site for the memorial have been carefully studied. My good friend just a moment ago spoke to the number of hearings. This has been an exhaustive process. It has been approved over a period of some 6 years, a longer time than it took to win World War II.

The Allied victory in this greatest war in world history represented the triumph of the human spirit and began the march of freedom and democracy across the world that continues even today.

More than half a century has passed, Mr. Speaker, but America's World War II veterans still have no national memorial to honor them. They have been called the greatest generation; and even recently, popular movies like *Saving Private Ryan* and the *Thin Red Line* have served to remind us of their incredible bravery and sacrifices. Yet, they have no memorial, and their generation is passing away at the rate of over 1,100 people per day. How much longer can they wait?

Eight years ago, Congress passed the authorization for the World War II memorial. Today we have a site selected and a design approved through an exhaustive process that ensured careful consideration of all the relevant factors before the decisions were made.

Unfortunately, no process can ensure unanimity. A litigious few are now attempting to block both the site selection and design in the courts on legal technicalities. Oh, yes, they too support a memorial. They just cannot agree on when or where or in what form, and they have no concern about how long that process might take.

Mr. Speaker, despite a full and fair opportunity to have their opinions heard, they argue that the process was not perfect. The truth is, they do not like the result so their strategy is endless reconsideration and delay. They apparently do not care whether World

War II veterans live to see their own memorial or not. The irony is that they live in a free society, exercising rights secured by the blood of our World War II veterans and other veterans.

I frankly think this situation we find ourselves in today is unconscionable. I would like to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), now chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, himself a World War II combat veteran, for leading the way on this legislation. There is nobody more able and more qualified in this Chamber to be offering this resolution than my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona. I want to associate myself with his remarks, and note that he is a former chairman, chairman emeritus, of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, like many in this Chamber and many who may be viewing these proceedings, I regret that my own father, a combat veteran who saw horrific action in New Guinea during World War II and elsewhere in the Pacific, including the Philippines, never got to see this memorial, having passed away a few years ago. He, like those 1,100 who die every day, will never see this memorial. Again, like I said a moment ago, that is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at the co-sponsors, this is a bipartisan effort to try to get this very important memorial moving. I think it shows that there will be and I hope should be broad support across the spectrum for this.

Let me just finally say that delay is denial. Again, 1,100 veterans die every day, 1,100 of the greatest generation. If we delay this another day, it is denial for them to see what this country has said in gratitude. It is a small token, but nevertheless it is an important token. I hope that everyone unanimously supports this important resolution. I salute the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank all my good friends who have spoken in favor of this resolution today. I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), as chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, and his ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), for all their help and support; along with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), chairman of the Committee on the Interior, which has jurisdiction over the Mall, and his ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), as well as the leadership for allowing us to move expeditiously on this.

In closing, let me say, let us not get into another bureaucratic wrangling and delay any further. The number of 1,100 World War II veterans has been mentioned here that are dying every day. Translate that into the time we have been on this floor. We have been on the floor approximately 1 hour. We

have debated this bill for about 50 minutes. Sadly to say, Mr. Speaker, in that time, another 45 World War II veterans have passed away.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1696.

This bill would expedite the construction of the already-approved World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC.

In short, World War II veterans have waited long enough. When the long dark shadows of aggression appeared and threatened to cloak liberty, it was the World War II veterans that ensured liberty, freedom and the rule of law. It is time that all Americans express the gratitude and admiration that our nation's World War II veterans rightly deserve.

Our World War II veterans are truly special. While many have served this great nation in varying capacities, it is the World War II generation that ultimately changed the course of history.

In return, this Congress must ensure the United States government remains steadfast in its commitment to provide World War II veterans and their families a memorial that they so richly deserve. We must act now.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1696, legislation to fast-track the Construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. This bill is necessary because it takes into account the crucial element of time; time that is running out for many veterans. Every day, we lose more than 1,000 World War II veterans. Today, less than 6 million remain alive.

The intent of the World War II Memorial is to honor the 16 million Americans who served in uniform during the war, the more than 400,000 who gave their lives, and the millions who supported the war effort on the homefront. World War II was a point of transition in American history, a point at which America's adolescence ended and a mature American mission emerged. This mission, as defined by President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, was a call to all Americans to work to end tyranny and poverty wherever it is found.

World War II also marked a time of rapid advancement for America. In order to meet the material needs of the worldwide war effort, America's factories manufactured goods at an astronomical rate. To sustain this level of production while so many American men were putting on uniforms and going off to war, women entered the workforce in mass numbers for the first time. This forever changed the face of American industry, while also changing the way many women saw themselves and their role in American society.

The benefits provided to returning veterans, including financial assistance for education and home purchases, allowed many Americans to attain a level of freedom and independence that was not even imagined before the war. The Montgomery GI Bill provided countless veterans with a college education. In many cases, these veterans were the first in their family to go to college.

Above all, World War II was the moment in history when the United States helped save the world from fascism and tyranny. And, as Senator Bob Dole said, "It is time to thank the World War II veterans for doing what they believed was their duty—to help their country save the world. We must build a monument to bear them witness. Witness to young men who, armed with courage, liberated whole con-

tinents from tyranny. Witness to young soldiers who willingly died for a future they would never see."

As a testament to the urgency of this matter, I read in today's Washington Post, the obituary of Barbara Lazarsky. During World War II, Ms. Lazarsky served in the Women's Air Force Service Pilots. She contributed to the war effort by ferrying planes across the United States so that men were free for combat overseas. When the WASP program was disbanded after the war, Ms. Lazarsky became an aircraft accident analyst for the Air Transport Command. In 1947, she became a military and air attaché in India. Her recent death demonstrates the necessity of expediting the construction of the World War II Memorial.

This World War II Memorial honors those who served, and those who gave the "last full measure of devotion," while also commemorating the indelible mark left on American society. It is time to create a lasting monument to the legacy of those who gave so much and asked for so little. While we may disagree on the style and form of the memorial, we all agree on the moral imperative to honor those who served their country in its hour of need. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1696.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1696, legislation that would expedite building the World War II Memorial at the expense of protecting our National Mall. I inadvertently voted in support of this legislation earlier today. While I believe it is important to recognize the important contributions and sacrifices that our fighting men and women made during this turning event in world history, I do not support legislation that would do irrevocable harm to the World War II Memorial itself and to the national mall. If any precious national treasure deserves protection by Congress, it is the National Mall. H.R. 1696 would eliminate indispensable oversight for the largest and most significant memorial on the Mall since the Lincoln Memorial was constructed almost 80 years ago.

I oppose this legislation because not only is it unnecessary, but its provisions could seriously compromise the water quality and surrounding cultural and historical landmarks of the city. Congress should not promote legislation that would eliminate or reduce oversight on already agreed to provisions that the City and National Planning Commission have developed. Such critical provisions not addressed by this bill include not allowing contaminated groundwater to be pumped into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, ensuring the structural integrity of the Washington Monument, and providing tourists with the ability to appreciate this Memorial and the Mall without suffering severe traffic congestion.

Congress should let the National Planning Commission deal with building the Memorial in a more appropriate manner, one that is already underway and which befits the important legacy that this Memorial is designed to honor.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, It is essential that future generations always remember the sacrifices for freedom made by the World War II generation. A tribute to the men and women who helped win that war, both overseas and on the home front is long overdue. It's for this reason that I'm working to expedite construction of the memorial and why I will vote with my colleagues in

the U.S. House of Representatives to pass legislation that directs work on the World War II Memorial begin as soon as possible.

The construction of the country's first national memorial dedicated to all who served in the armed forces and Merchant Marine of the United States during World War II on the National Mall is a fitting tribute to their courage. I am disappointed by the efforts of those to delay construction of the World War II Memorial, but the real victims of the indefinite delay are the members of that generation, who now must wait even longer for it to be completed. It is a harsh reality, but of the 16 million who served in uniform during the war, it is estimated that only 5 million are still alive, and of whom, we lose 1,100 each day.

Throughout a lengthy, open and democratic approval process, the American people have expressed their overwhelming support for the construction of the National WWII Memorial on our nation's mall. Hundreds of thousands of individual Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations; dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations; state legislatures, and veterans organizations have joined the effort to say thank you to America's WWII generation.

Each year, millions of visitors come to the nation's capital to appreciate its monuments to our country's founding fathers, great presidents, and places of government. Home to our nation's cherished symbols of freedom, the memorial will beautifully complement the green vistas of the Mall and its existing monuments. They story of the World War II generation is an inspiration for us all. Once completed, this memorial will be a visible and timeless reminder of what they did to protect freedom and democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1696.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1500

COMMEMORATING DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 116) commemorating the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 116

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;